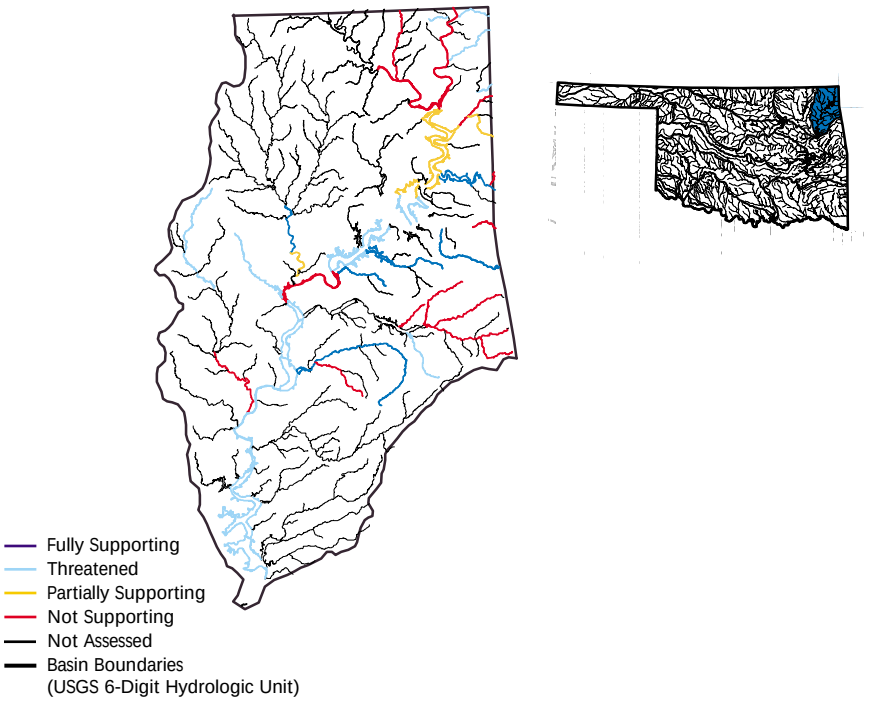
Oklahoma



This map depicts aquatic life use support status.

For a copy of the Oklahoma 1998 305(b) report, contact:

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Surface Water Quality

Thirty-seven percent of the assessed river miles have good water quality that fully supports aquatic life uses and 61% fully support swimming. The most common pollutants found in Oklahoma rivers are siltation, pesticides, nutrients, and suspended solids. Agriculture is the leading source of pollution in the state's rivers and streams, followed by resource extraction and hydrologic and habitat modifications.

Fifty-six percent of the assessed lake acres fully support aquatic life uses and more than 59% fully support swimming. The most widespread pollutants in Oklahoma's lakes are siltation, nutrients, suspended solids, pesticides, and oxygen-depleting substances. Agriculture is also the most common source of pollution in lakes, followed by hydrologic modifications and resource extraction. Several lakes are impacted by acid mine drainage, including the Gaines Creek arm of Lake Eufaula and the Lake O' the Cherokees.

Oklahoma did not report on the condition of wetlands.

Ground Water Quality

Ambient ground water monitoring has detected elevated nitrate concentrations in monitoring wells scattered across the state. Monitoring has also detected isolated cases of hydrocarbon contamination, elevated selenium and fluoride concentrations (some due to natural sources), chloride contamination from discontinued oil field activities, metals from past mining operations, and gross alpha activity above maximum allowable limits. Industrial solvents contaminate a few sites around Tinker Air Force Base. The state rates agricultural activities, injection wells, septic tanks, surface impoundments, and underground storage tanks among the highest priority sources of ground water contamination.

Programs to Restore Water Quality

Oklahoma's nonpoint source control program is a cooperative effort of state, federal, and local agencies with the Conservation Commission serving as the lead

technical agency. The program sponsors best management practices, water quality monitoring before and after BMP implementation, technical assistance, education, and development of comprehensive watershed management plans. The Conservation Commission is working toward a goal of 70% cooperative participation by local landowners in BMP projects.

Programs to Assess Water Quality

The Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality monitors the waters of the state for toxic contaminants through the Ambient/Biotrend Monitoring and Toxic Monitoring in Reservoirs programs. The Ambient/Biotrend Monitoring program consists of 22 core and 78 rotating stations and has been in place since 1979. The Toxic Monitoring in Reservoirs program began in 1980 and has involved monitoring of over 50 different lakes in the state. Oklahoma also participates in the EPA Region 6 Ambient Biotoxicity Network that began sampling in 1990.

The Oklahoma Water Quality Monitoring Council (OWQMC) was created in the fall of 1997 to develop and implement a comprehensive state water quality monitoring strategy. The OWQMC organization fosters cooperation among groups involved in all types of water quality monitoring and associated mapping activities.

Individual Use Support in Oklahoma

Designated Use[a]	Total Miles/Acres Assessed	Percent: Good (Fully Supporting)	Good (Threatened)	Fair (Partially Supporting)	Poor (Not Supporting)	Not Attainable
Rivers and Streams (Total Miles = 78,778)[b]						
Aquatic life	11,088	13	24	15	48	-
Recreation	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fish consumption	4,682	15	46	24	15	-
Lakes (Total Acres = 1,041,884)						
Aquatic life	606,066	21	35	38	5	-
Recreation	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fish consumption	547,972	9	50	35	6	-

– Not reported in a quantifiable format or unknown.

[a] A subset of Oklahoma's designated uses appear in this figure. Refer to the state's 305(b) report for a full description of the state's uses.

[b] Includes nonperennial streams that dry up and do not flow all year.

Note: Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.